

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A cash dispensing automated banking machine comprising:

a chest;

5 a cash dispenser in operative connection with the chest;

an acceptor device in operative connection with an outer portion of the chest;

a bracket in operative connection with an inner portion of the chest;

a deposit holding container movably engageable with the bracket, wherein the container comprises:

10 a reservoir;

a locking mechanism in operative connection with the reservoir, wherein the locking mechanism is operative to change from a locked state to an armed state responsive to a key, wherein the locking mechanism includes a movable portion,

wherein when the movable portion is moved, the locking mechanism is operative to change from an armed state to a locked state; and

5 a door in operative connection with the reservoir, wherein when the locking mechanism is in the armed state, the door is operative to move from a closed position to an open position;

wherein when the container is moved into engagement with the bracket:

a first portion of the machine is operative to urge the movable portion of the container;

10 wherein when the container is moved out of engagement with the bracket:

a second portion of the machine is operative to urge the door of the container to move from the opened position to the closed position, wherein in the closed position, a portion of the door is operative to engage with the locking mechanism, wherein the locking mechanism in the locked state is operative to prevent the door
15 from moving to an open position.

2. The machine according to claim 1, wherein, when: the locking mechanism is in the armed state; the door of the container is in the closed state; and the container is moved into engagement with the bracket, a third portion of the automated banking machine is operative to urge the door of the container to slide into the open position.

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3. The machine according to claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism is operative to accept a key therein, wherein when the key rotates in a first direction, the key is operative to cause the locking mechanism to change to an unlocked state, wherein in the unlocked state, the door is operative to move from the closed position to the open position.

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4. The machine according to claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism is operative to accept a key therein, wherein when the key rotates in a first direction, the key is operative to cause the locking mechanism to change to an unlocked state, wherein in the unlocked state, the door is operative to move from the closed position to the open position, wherein after changing to the unlocked state, when the key rotates in an opposite second direction, the locking mechanism is

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5. The machine according to claim 4, wherein after the key is rotated in the first direction within the locking mechanism, the locking mechanism is operative to prevent the key from being removed from the locking mechanism, until the key is rotated in the second direction.

6. The machine according to claim 4, wherein the acceptor device is operative to move to a position above the bracket, wherein the chest includes at least one opening therethrough located adjacent the bracket, wherein the acceptor device is operative to move items through the opening into the container.

5 7. The machine according to claim 6, further comprising a movable projection, wherein when the container is moved into engagement with the bracket, the container is operative to urge the movable projection into a first position adjacent a portion of the acceptor device, wherein the movable projection in the first position is operative to prevent the acceptor device from moving into a service position, wherein when the container is removed out of engagement with the
10 bracket, the movable projection is operative to move to a second position, wherein the moveable projection in the second position does not prevent the acceptor device from moving into the service position.

8. The machine according to claims 7, wherein when the acceptor device is not in the service position, the acceptor device is positioned above the bracket, wherein when the acceptor
15 device is in the service position, the acceptor device is not directly above at least a portion of the at least one opening through the chest.

9. The machine according to claim 1, wherein the chest has a generally "L" shaped contour with a first taller portion adjacent a second relatively shorter portion, wherein the acceptor device

is positioned above the shorter second portion adjacent the first taller portion, wherein the bracket is positioned within the second shorter portion of the chest below the acceptor device, wherein the chest includes an opening between the bracket and the acceptor device, wherein the acceptor device is operative to move items through the opening into the container.

5 10. The machine according to claim 1, wherein the door of the container includes an upwardly directed projection, wherein the second portion of the machine is operative to contact the upwardly directed projection to urge the door into the open position.

10 11. The machine according to claim 2, wherein the door of the container includes slot, wherein when the container is moved out of engagement with the bracket, the third portion of the machine is operative to pivot into the slot and urge the door into the closed position.

15 12. The machine according to claim 1, wherein the container includes a frame, wherein the locking mechanism is mounted within the frame, wherein the frame includes an aperture therethrough adjacent the movable portion of the locking mechanism, wherein the first portion includes a pin which is positioned to project through the aperture when the container is moved into engagement with the bracket.

13. The machine according to claim 1, wherein the door includes a flexible tambour portion which is operative to slide between parallel channels adjacent an opening into the reservoir.

14. The machine according to claim 13, wherein the tambour door includes flanges which are operative to slide within the channels.

15. The machine according to claim 14, wherein each channel includes a frangible portion, wherein the frangible portion is operative to break to provide an opening for inserting one of the
5 flanges of the door into the channel.

16. A method comprising:

a) urging a deposit holding container to slide adjacent a bracket of an automated banking machine, wherein the automated banking machine includes a cash dispenser, wherein the container includes a locking mechanism, wherein the
10 locking mechanism is in an armed state, wherein the container includes a door, wherein the door is operative to move from a closed position to an open position when the locking mechanism is in the armed state;

b) urging with a first portion of the automated banking machine the locking mechanism to change to a locked state responsive to (a);

15 c) urging the container to slide out of the bracket; and

- d) urging with a second portion of the automated banking machine, the door of the container to move to a closed position responsive to (c), wherein a portion of the door engages with the locking mechanism, wherein the locking mechanism in the locked state is operative to prevent the door from moving to an open position.

5 17. The method according to claim 16, wherein prior to (a) the door of the container is in the closed position, wherein responsive to (a) urging with a third portion of the automated banking machine the door of the container to slide into the open position.

18. The method according to claim 16, further comprising:

- e) placing a key into engagement with the locking mechanism;

10 f) urging with the key the locking mechanism into an unlocked state, wherein the door is operative to move to the open position.

19. The method according to claim 18, further comprising:

- g) removing the key from engagement with the locking mechanism, wherein the locking mechanism is in the armed state.

20. The method according to claim 18, further comprising:

g) causing with the key, the locking mechanism to change from the unlocked state to the armed state; and

h) removing the key from engagement with the locking mechanism.

5 21. The method according to claim 20, wherein between (f) and (g) the key is not removable from the locking mechanism.

22. The method according to claim 20, wherein (f) includes rotating the key within the locking mechanism in a first direction.

10 23. The method according to claim 22, wherein (g) includes rotating the key in an opposite second direction.

24. A cash dispensing automated banking machine comprising:

a chest in operative connection with a frame, wherein the chest has an generally "L" shaped outer contour with a first taller portion adjacent a second relatively shorter portion, wherein the shorter portion includes an upper face with an opening therethrough;

a cash dispenser in operative connection within the taller portion of the chest;

an acceptor device in operative connection with an outer portion of the chest, wherein the acceptor device is positioned above the shorter portion and adjacent to the first taller portion; and

- 5 a deposit holding container in removable connection within the shorter portion of the chest, wherein the acceptor device is operative to move items through the opening into the container.